(c) what are the reasons for delay in giving environmental clearances to these proposed units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Three industrial projects were referred to this Ministry during the last 6 months. These proposals were from M|s Plama Laboratories Ltd., M|s BASF India Ltd., and M|s Kirloskar Ferrous Industries Ltd. These industrial proposals pertain to bulk drugs, dyes and intermediates, and iron & steel manufacturing respectively.

(c) These projects could not be finally appraised for want of requisite information and clarifications from the project prosponent and relevant expert agencies including National Chemical Laboratories, Pune and Industrial Toxicological Research Centre, Lucknow.

Environmental Clearance for Prawn Farming in Orissa

7941. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of individuals and public sector companies doing prawn farming in Orissa;

(b) whether they have obtained permission from his Ministry.

(c) if so, the dates when they had submitted applications and the date when their applications were sanctioned;

(d) whether all of them have got clearance from his Ministry; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (e) As per available information, 11,495 hectares of water area is under brackish water fish farms in Orisa. The farms are mainly in the unorganised sector. Two applications from private sector operators have been received for clearance of prawn culture projects from the environmental angle. Clearances for these projects have not been given. The application of M|s Aqua Teak Estates Ltd., was received on 17-8-94. With respect to the proposal of M|s Chilka Aquatic Farms Ltd., the State Government of Orissa had given them, in 1992, an advance possession of 400 ha. of land. Consequent to a large number of representations, the State Government was advised to carry out a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study of the prawn culture project in Chilka Lake by a multidisciplinary group. The EIA report from the State Government is awaited. However, the work on the project has been stopped.

Plantation of rare timbers

7942. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would encourage the plantation of rare timbers like Sandalwood and Rosewood by various State Governments;

(b) whether it is a fact that Rosewood and Sandalwood are not being replanted at a favourable rate by the State Governments;

(c) whether some financial assistance would be extended by Government to the Andhra Pradesh Government to undertake plantation of Rosewood and Sandalwood in appropriate areas, and;

(d) if so, the details of financial aid for rare and valuable timber plantations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d) Afforestation and tree planting programmes are undertaken by the implementing agencies in the States including the State of Andhra Pradesh,